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**MARCH 28, 2003  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GREENBELT FIRM AGREES TO FORFEIT \$25,000  
FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT ORDER**

Greenbelt, Maryland - United States Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio and Assistant Attorney General Robert McCallum, Jr., of the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, announced that a marketer of herbal products designed to mimic the euphoric effects of illegal street drugs has agreed to forfeit \$25,000 in proceeds and enter into a consent decree to resolve a contempt case that was to be filed by the United States.

Hit Products, Inc, and Organic Diversions, Inc. – which do business under the names Riverdale Organics, Dream World and 420 Herb Company – and their president, Perry L. Hitt, manufactured, marketed and distributed products with names such as “Tribal Visions,” “Maui Hybrid,” “Honey Blonde,” “India Black,” “Mean Green,” “Mistic Hybrid,” “Chocolate Thai Oil,” “Chill Smoke,” and “Kind Budz” – various mixtures of herbs which promised users effects comparable to illegal street drugs. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration categorizes such substances as “street drug alternatives” that qualify as misbranded and unapproved new drugs in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and

Cosmetic Act. In the summer of 2001, the Honorable Alexander William, Jr., U.S. District Judge for the District of Maryland entered two orders designed to stop the defendants' sale of street drug alternatives, concluding that defendants sell "products [that] promise users effects comparable to illegal street drugs that plague America's youth."

By requiring the defendants to forfeit proceeds of street drug alternative sales, the current consent decree eliminates the financial benefit of selling products in violation of the original court orders. In addition, the decree limits the ways in which the defendants can market their products in order to prevent further court order violations.

This case was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nadira Clarke and by Richard Goldberg of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Consumer Litigation.

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